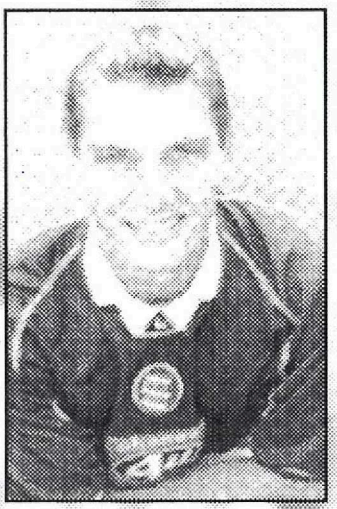
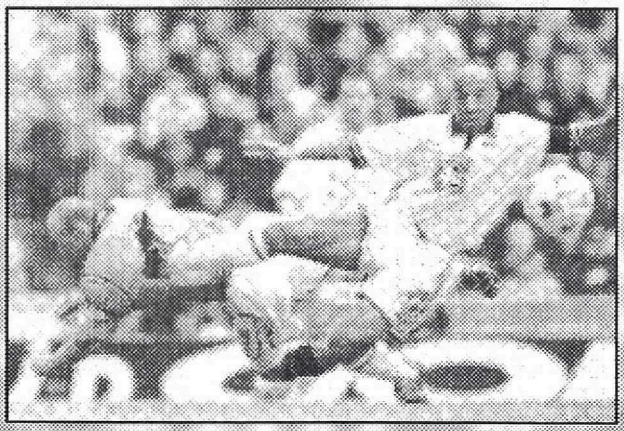
CAPTAIN PURSE IS NOW CALLING THE TOSS



BUT WE WON'T FORGET THIS MAN EITHER



ZULU BLUES

THE ZULU

A BIRMINGHAM CITY FANZINE

ISSUE **100**

NATIONWIDE DIVISION 1

CITY vs WATFORD

PRICE **£1**

EDITORIAL by Dave Small

Unfortunately this issue of 'The Zulu' went to print before the result of the game against Barnsley was known. Of course before that we had the game against Crewe abandoned and the game against Bradford called off and as I said in the last issue only time will tell if that was a good or bad thing. Personally points on the board are often better than games in hand. But no matter what you have to say that this division this season is a real dog fight. Only a handful of points separate the teams scrambling for the play-off spots and at the time of writing only a fool would try and predict who'll be fighting for the right to go to Cardiff in May.

In fairness it might be a case of forget the quality, feel the width as team slug it out for the chance to go into the land of milk and honey, also known as the Premiership. But one thing for sure, it's going to hold everyone's attention right up until the end of this campaign. It does look like Manchester City will go up, although Kevin Keegan has been known to throw away a lead at the top of a table before and if they are still involved in the FA Cup, then who knows? Although it hurts, it does seem as either the Baggies or the Wolves will be there or there abouts regards the automatic spots as well. In fact West Brom seem to be the form team at the moment, they don't score too many, but they don't let any in either!

I'm still positive about our chances of getting in the top two. However, we can't afford to drop too many more silly points and the games against the likes of Burnley and Preston will be vital ones, assuming we haven't done anything daft against Barnsley and we don't do anything daft against Watford. It shows just how this division is this season because even though Watford have spent best part of it below halfway, a few wins and they could be in with a shout themselves of the play off's. On the horizon are home games against Manchester City and Wolves so we are into a crucial spell. I would expect us to know just where our season is heading once this latest batch of games is out of the way.

Yes, there's a lot of football to be played before this season is sorted and confined to the history books. A lot of blood sweat and tears as well no doubt. Talking of tears, I don't want to sound as if I'm having a go at Trevor again but surely his latest signing of Ade Akinbiyi will bring a tear or two to the eyes of the Palace fans! Even though they're doomed I don't think too many Leicester fans shed a tear when Ade Bad Buy said goodbye to his career at Filbert Street.

Steve Bruce appears to be sorting one or two things out bringing in the players now that he wants whilst re-introducing Barry Fry'' revolving door so those he doesn't want don't clutter up the corridors of St Andrews. More power to his elbow, the clearout is long over due. Even if the unthinkable happens and we don't make it again this year, I'm still more confident of the future now than I was before under Trevor. The next few weeks are going to be a bit of a roller coaster ride so hold on to your hats.

Oh and by the way, this is the one hundredth Zulu! Where's my bloody presents? Anyway, here's to the next hundred!

ANOTHER VIEW OF THE HAWTHORNS

After winning a VIP day out courtesy of 1152am (bet Rossy didn't pick me) I arrived at the suite, as instructed by the Itinerary at 5.30.
A glass of champagne and a chat to Astro from UB40 who was well pleased with the amount raised from the auction of T-shirt for Dave Langan's benefit night. Astro then went on to win the "Guess the crowd" competition and looked well pleased with himself. I won a raffle prize, but as there was only Baggies goodies, I gave the winning ticket to a Yam Yam (well you have to look after those less fortunate than yourself, don't you?)Great vocal support from the lads, really weird being so far away from the, wish we could have scored, just to shut the Albion fans up around me.
Also, Smally misled me, during the meal I was amazed to see the Albion faithful using the cutlery provided. DS had told me that they had not developed to that level yet.
Also, in the row in front of me was Freeloader and TF look-a-like Jasper Carrott. For a Blues nut, and true Blue he was very, very quiet.
I don't think he was too impressed when, with about 5 minutes to go, I tapped him on the shoulder and said, "Jasper, you must be getting really pissed off with all these people who keep coming up to you." He was just about to answer, when I continued saying, "Jasper. Jasper! Is that guy behind you Gordon Middleton?"
THE WOMEN: "Who let the Dogs out"

K.R.O.

Who yer lookin' at

BRUMMIES ARE NOT VIOLENT.
I'LL BELT THE NEXT BLOKE WHO SAYS THEY ARE!

A VIEW FROM THE STANDS

Actually it was an observation from the directors box. Posh eh?

Tuesday January 29 v West Bromwich Albion. Lost 1-0

Can't fault the work rate or the commitment of most of the players, in this tough local derby.

But, and I'm knocking at Bruce or anyone else, but I am getting more and more agitated and concerned that something, some spark is missing. I don't know whether it is a lack of self-belief, or that some players are in the comfort zone! However, I am sure that Brucie know what's need, and I hope that it is sorted out A.S.A.P.

However, two surprises last night, the inclusion of Paul Furlong after injury, and a league debut to youth team captain Darren Carter who relished the occasion. Unfortunately we lacked the punch to breach Albion's tough defence, while at the other end, Bennett kept the score down, stopping one-on-ones with Roberts on 3 or 4 occasions. To be honest, Albion could and probably should have won by three or four goals.

Marks Out Of ten

Bennett	Great saves	8.5	Hughes	Average	7
Kenna		7	Lazaridis	Worked hard	7
Purse	Solid	7	Furlong	Way off pace	5
Johnson M	Battled	7	Johnson A	Lively	7.5
Grainger	Aggressive	7	Carter	Has a great future	7.5
Baden	So So	6			

Crowd: 25,266

Great vocal support (first time I've ever heard them from a distance) Best chants.
"You are Taliban, you are Taliban"
"Where's your Taliban"

P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.	Pos.
31	13	8	10	45	36	47	8th

DOWN MEMORY LANE *BY DAVE SMALL*

I've said on previous occasions that I am not one for collecting memorabilia. But have still managed to accumulate hundreds of programmes, fanzines and other such items.
Not long ago I came across a Sports Argus from 1957, how it managed to come into my possession I don't know, because it was the Cup final Argus from the Villa Man-United Cup final That had to go for a start, now I could have set fire to it, or binned it, but there is a young lad round the corner who follows the Vile, so I gave I to him, a strange lad you'd have thought he'd won the lottery.
On my latest forage into the heart of my garage I came across a 1953-4 Sports Argus football annual, price one shilling (5p) This made very interesting reading. It gave all the results of the midland six, plus final league positions from the season before, 1952-53. This was of special interest to me because I was doing my National Service at that time, and, didn't have the time to keep up with what was happening at the Blues!
Train Spotters like Disco Dave, Para Pete and Tommy Foley will be well aware that Blues were in the old second division then. Sheffield United topped the league and were promoted Huddersfield joined them by finishing second. Blues finished in 6th place. The 2nd division for that season made interesting reading. Southampton, now a Premiership side finished second bottom and were relegated to division 3 South, while bottom club Barnsley went to division 3 North. It is also worth noting that finishing that season below us, were, Fulham, Blackburn, Leeds United, West Ham and Everton, all now in the Premier.
Division 1 (now the Premier) was won by Arsenal, Preston were runners up, the Wolves were 3rd and the Baggies 4th. Man United managed to scrape a place in the top half, so did the Vile, while Liverpool, Newcastle and Chelsea finished in the bottom half, relegated, Stoke and Derby
Among the big boys in division one that season included Blackpool, Cardiff and Portsmouth
In division 3 South Bristol Rovers and Millwall were promoted to the second division, and that division included such teams as Coventry and Ipswich. Plus Newport County and Aldershot, two teams that would eventually lose the football league status. By the way Walsall finished bottom and had to seek re-election. Yes, they were a Mickey Mouse club in those days too!
Division 3 North. Oldham and Port Vale filled the top two places. And teams in that league who were to lose their league status in the coming years included. Bradford Park Avenue, Gateshead, Barrow, Chester, Workington and Accrington.
Rangers won the Scottish league on goal difference from Hibernian, and Celtic finished out with the washing.
Apart from the league results, there was some very interesting statistics on schoolboy, and none league Birmingham Works leagues, (all 16 of them)
England schoolboys were reported on. And in the International matches from that season, the England team included Wilf McGuinness of Manchester schoolboys and Bobby Charlton from East Northumberland. McGuinness made it to the Man United first team, and eventually became team manager. Bobby Charlton won a record number of International caps for England and is a living legend.
All our midland six teams' players had a profile written on them. The Argus reckoned that Blues young full back was a future international, they were right. Jeff Hall went on to win many caps for England, before he sadly died of Polio at an early age!
It would appear that I have found a little treasure!

WATFORD

HIGHS AND LOWS

Biggest home win: 8-0 v Sunderland (25-Sep-1982)
Biggest away win: 6-1 v Swindon Town (01-Feb-1936), 5-0 v Newport County (15-Feb-1936), 5-0 v Gillingham (11-Jan-1969), 5-0 v Lincoln City (13-Sep-1978), 5-0 v Wolverhampton W. (03-Dec-1983)
Biggest home defeat: 1-7 v Swindon Town (06-Sep-1951)
Biggest away defeat: 1-8 v Aberdare Athletic (02-Jan-1926), 0-7 v Port Vale (15-Sep-1947), 1-8 v Crystal Palace (23-Sep-1959)
Most points (3 for a win): 80, Division 2 (1981/82)
Most points (2 for a win): 71, Division 4 (1977/78)
Least points (3 for a win): 32, Division 1 (1987/88)
Least points (2 for a win): 19, Division 2 (1971/72)
Highest finish: 2, Division 1 (1982/83)
Lowest finish: 15, Division 4 (1958/59)

FIRST TIME

First League Game: Away v Queens Park R. (28-Aug-1920)
Result: Won 2-1
Final position: 6th

KICKIN' OFF

Successive wins at start of season: 4 (1988/89)
Successive defeats at start of season: 4 (1933/34), (1934/35)
Successive unbeaten games at start of season: 7 (1923/24)

Luther missit

Former Watford star Luther Blissett arrived at AC Milan's San Siro ground after joining the Italian club in 1984 and said "where's the dog track?"

GOALS, GOALS, GOALS

Most goals scored (in a season): 92 (1959/60)
Fewest goals scored: 24 (1971/72)
Most goals conceded: 89 (1925/26)
Fewest goals conceded: 34 (1968/69)
Most clean sheets: 25 (1968/69)
Fewest clean sheets: 5 (1947/48)

Pop in

Pop superstar Elton John was chairman of the club when they reached the 1984 FA Cup Final and is still at Vicarage Road today.

Foundations laid

There are conflicting stories regarding the foundation of the club but the most likely suggestion is that Watford was formed as Watford Rovers in 1891. Another version suggest the amalgamation of West Herts and Watford's St. Mary's.

WIN, LOSE OR DRAW

Most wins (in a season): 30 (1977/78)
Fewest wins: 5 (1971/72)
Most draws: 18 (1921/22)
Fewest draws: 5 (1946/47), (1982/83)
Most defeats: 28 (1971/72)
Fewest defeats: 5 (1977/78)

ON THE RUN

Successive games unbeaten: 22 (1-Oct-1996)
Successive games without a win: 19 (27-Nov-1971)
Successive wins: 7 (17-Nov-1934), (26-Dec-1977)
Successive defeats: 9 (18-Dec-1971), (26-Dec-1972)
Successive draws: 7 (30-Nov-1996))
Successive games without scoring: 7 (18-Dec-1971)
Successive games without conceding: 8 (24-Sep-1949)

THEIR LEAGUE RECORD

P	W	D	L	F	A
3078	1147	801	1130	4412	4308

SPEAKING TOO SOON

MARTIN GRAINGER

MARTIN GRAINGER By Dave Small

It's common knowledge that footballers are not the brightest of people, some would even say that the majority of them are thicker than a hod carriers sandwich.
I was embarrassed not too long ago when some of our most respected former footballing super stars appeared on a special edition of "The weakest Link" there attempts to answer the simplest of questions were a tribute to their ignorance. Football it appears was their only knowledge, and even that was limited.
And has if that was not enough, then how about those thick footballers who pen articles for some of our newspapers? Well, you will often see written at the end of these, yes, and first class literary pieces of work. ---------- ---------- was talking to, and then the name of a journalist would appear.
But, in the case of our very own Martin Grainger there was no such respected member of the
journalist profession putting his name to an article in the Sports Argus of January 26. No, it was all the work of Martin Grainger. And the following article is printed below, and no, it is not taken out of context:
It Reads.
The season is nowhere near over but listening to some people you'd think we haven't got a chance. We all know that recent performances haven't been great. And we could play with a bit more spark on occasions. But this is no time to write us off. I think we have to look at it along the lines that getting into the play off's is a bonus
So, he reckons some people have written off the Blues chances this season. Well to be perfectly honest, the way the team played against Wimbledon (certainly the worst performance I have ever seen in over fifty years) then some people could be excused for thinking our season was over. Next, Grainger reckons that getting into the play off's would be a bonus. "Bollocks" We the fans expect nothing less than a play off place, and some of us still expect an automatic promotion spot!
Grainger carries on: A new manager has come in, he's seeing what he's got to do and then in the summer he'll probably stamp his mark on the team.
Then, next season, we can have a right good crack at it.
He wants to get us up this time, but you have also got to be sensible and view the larger picture.
Now doesn't that tell you everything about the ignorance of some footballers, and in this case Martin Gainger? who in his first remarks tells us not to write off this season. Then in the next tells us that HE has written off our chances. And reading between the lines is questioning the confidence of Steve Bruce!
Has a lifetime supporter of the Blues, I think I know what makes our fans tick, and that is by them being super optimists! And the last thing they want to hear is a member of the team talking with a pessimist tongue.
Thankfully Steve Bruce inspires confidence in the fans, and we badly need that after the negative years of Trevor Francis. There is work to be done, new faces have to come in, but in this day and age balancing the books is just as important, so old faces will have to go!
But if the players are telling us that THEY have thrown the towel in, then how can the club expect the missing fans to return to the fold? No, the only answer is for the players, the directors and the fans is to be ALL singing from the same hymn sheet.

But now after getting threatening letters against him and his family, its all gone quiet over there. Evidently writer wants Woodgate and Bowyer left out of the team. Which to me means, it is an Asian who is scaring the shit out of O'Leary. Maybe that is why we read in the paper, of O'Leary, and the team posing for a photo, while holding a card which says. "Show Racism the Red Card".

George Graham has told the Vile that if they want him as their manager, then they have to give him a call. It is below Graham's dignity to apply for a job. Now this I would like to see happen, imagine it, old tightwad deadly being asked for millions on a daily basis. And Graham no doubt looking for a bung with every deal.

England manager Sven Eriksson has spoken out in the wake of the recent heart scares involving Liverpool boss Gerard Houllier and his own right hand man Tord Grip. He wants the FA to introduce stringent new health checks on soccer managers in England. He wants us to go the way of the Wops who have their team managers undergo a check up every six months

They test their heart and lungs.

I think this is a brilliant idea, and why stop at the managers, let's also give the fans a medical every six months, and don't stop with the heart and lungs. Let's us also have our fucking heads examined

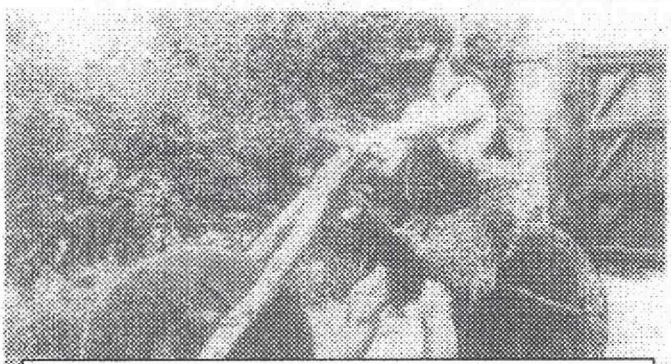
Arsene Wenger says that there was fuck all wrong with the two-footed lunge at Liverpool's Jamie Carragher by Dutch Prick Dennis Bergkamp. It is little wonder that Arsenal have the worst disciplinary record in the Premiership? And at Highbury, a place not noted for unruly fans, they have followed the example of the players and have become a problem.

Football hooligans will get no mercy in Japan, the Foreign Office tells us. The Japanese Pigs will detain any transgressors for up to 27 days before they appear in court, and could face a five-year stretch. And Britain expects to confiscate the passports of 1,000 known troublemakers.

In 1998 the Greater Manchester Police attacked Newcastle and Sheffield United supporters with batons. Their crime? Having a quiet pint inside a pub near Piccadilly station after their FA Cup semi-final. Fans are now to be compensated up to £15,000

Naturally no police officers have been charged.

A spokesman for the police said: We sincerely regret that those responsible for this incident have not been identified. If they had, it is without doubt they would have faced disciplinary and criminal proceedings. Oh yes, and Pigs (no pun intended) might fly.



Travelling to away games Wasn't easy in the old days

SMALL TALK SMALL TALK SMALL TALK SMALL TALK SMALL TALK SMALL TALK

If something has to be said, then you can rest assured the Zulu will say it! And with football going through crisis after crisis, it appears that there is only the negative to report on. It's like the newspapers say, "Bad new is Good News" And with players kicking lumps out of each other on the field of play, and any other poor bastard off it who happens to get in their way, that's the way of things.

The good news is pushed aside, like up at Anfield when Liverpool supporters who immediately after learning of the September 11 terrorist attack on New York, held a fund raising event at the Albert public house and raised seven grand for the New York Fire Brigade.

In a previous issue I was delighted to report on Niall Quinn, the Sunderland and Irish International who is giving every penny of the money raised from his testimonial game to worthy causes.

Now Mohammed Al Fayed the Fulham chairman has his critics, but I'm not, or have never been one of them. This is the man who has paid the coach fares for his fans to travel to an away game. Now the man has told York City, Fulham's opponents in the 4th round of the FA Cup, who are in deep financial shit, that they can keep Fulham's share of the gate receipts, and will be handed over to the newly formed York City Supporters Trust.

Nearer to home John Gregory has told Deadly to get stuffed, put his Grecian 2000 in his pockets and walked away from the Vile. And who's the first to put the knife in? None other than the biggest arsehole ever in football, Stan Collymore, he says: I think that for the script writers John Gregory was ideal because he has come out with so many statements over the years, its incredible. Most managers wouldn't last that long, which pays some tribute to his coaching ability

Collymore goes on: People know I had run ins with John Gregory, and the way he behaved towards me wasn't ideal! Yes, on that last statement I would have to agree with Collymore, the way Gregory behaved to Collymore was totally unacceptable. Gregory should have kicked his fucking head in!

You just can't stop the shit pouring out of Old Trafford! Next up Dwight Yorke, he is asking who ever wants to sign him to be paid twice as much as he was getting off United, plus, for good measure he wants a pay off to go. While Sir Scotch Prick Ferguson is telling Middlesborough to spend and spend, no doubt on over priced and over the top players from United.

While Golden Balls David Beckham is stalling over a new contract, according to the papers he won't sign while Sir Scotch Prick Ferguson is still at the club, he says he's pissed off (and quite right too) with the club conducting his contract details through the papers.

The club is now getting nervous, and the talk is of putting Beckham up for transfer. My bet is that Beckham will refuse to go, but wait until he's a free agent in 18 months time, that way, he can fill his boots with a huge signing on fee, and United will get what's coming to them. Fuck All!

And how about David O'Fucking Leary? This is the prat you just couldn't shut up!.

After slagging off numerous players (those who deserved it) in recent weeks about their anti-social, ignorant, couldn't give a shit attitude. It is really refreshing to see a player act in an unselfish way. That player being Niall Quinn.

Quinn is due a testimonial, which is expected to raise in excess of ×1m, and Quinn has pledged every penny to charities in the North East and Ireland, and deprived children in Africa and Asia. Furthermore, those players appearing in his testimonial match (Sunderland v Ireland)will not receive the traditional payments (usually in the region of gifts worth 3 to 5 grand) But the equivalent will also go to Niall's chosen good causes.

Here is a player who appreciates to the full, just how privileged he has been, and how fortunate he and his family have been in having a great life style playing the game that he loves. Pity some other players cannot take a leaf out of Quinn's book!

Pressure?

In the words of Jim Royle.....Pressure my arse! I am sick to the teeth of players, managers and the media forever telling anyone who cares to listen, about the unbearable pressure that they are constantly forced to endure.

Bollocks! If anyone out there would like to make the time to try and justify this conception, then I will gladly listen. How can a very well paid job, doing something that is your dream be classed as pressure?

Pressure is me. Pressure is the bloke sitting next to me, the bloke from the row in front, normal everyday people in normal, probably below average wage jobs. Probably robbing Peter to pay Paul on a weekly basis just to make ends meet.

Pressure is worrying as to how safe your job is. How many of us, if we screw up and get the tintack, will walk away with a massive golden handshake? Very few.

Whereas Mr Manager has enough to sit on his arse for as many months as he wants, and still keep his family in the style that they have come accustomed too.

I'm not saying that I'd make a great manager, but if any club wants to take a risk, give me a three year contract on £350,000 per year, sack me after two months and pay me off, then I'll give it a go. I'll accept that pressure now, rather than the pressurised, piss-boring job that I do now...Pressure?...My Arse!

Be careful against Watford Purse!

Oh, Oh. Darren Purse has got to be very, very careful when we play Watford. Apparently, the reason he got slapped in an off the ball incident in our match against Norwich, was because he grabbed their forward in the crown jewel`s area.

This action upset the opposing player, which resulted in the retaliation. Purse is now up on a charge of misconduct (or is it indecent assault?)

If this is a regular tactic of Darrens to wind up opposing forwards, then fine, no problem. However, I really think that this approach against the shirt lifters of Elton Johns Bum-

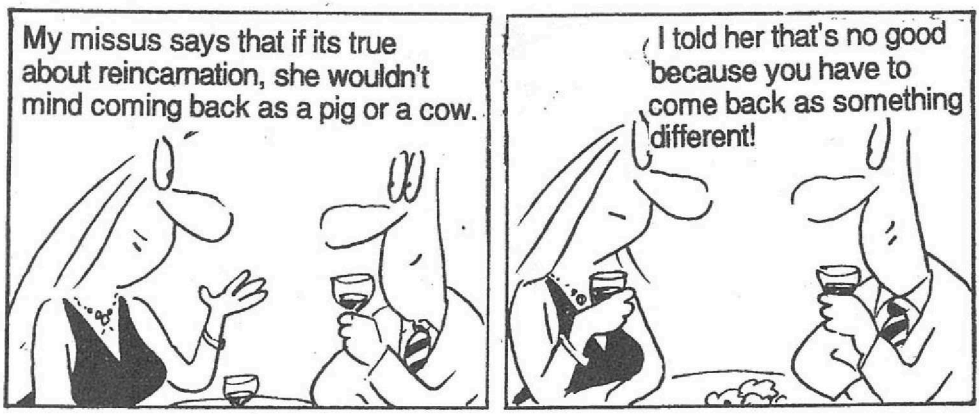
HALF-TIME QUIZ

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO WORK OUT THE FOOTBALL TEAM NAMES. THE CLUES LEAD TO THE TEAM NAMES TAKEN FROM THE LEAGUES IN ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND.

THE FIRST ONE IS DONE FOR YOU

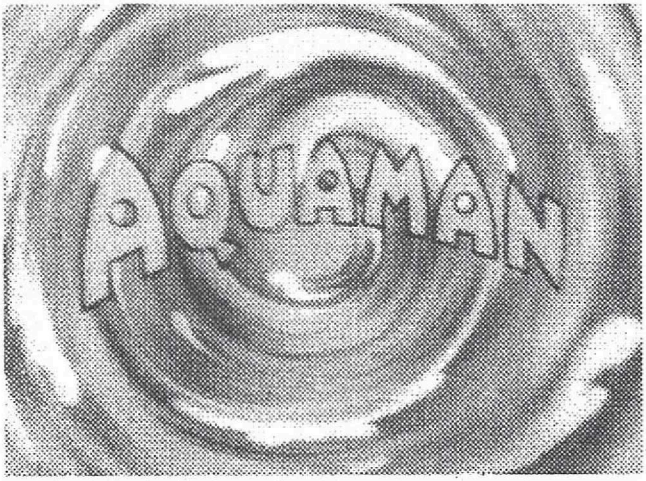
	clue.	answers.
0	Wild Dogs	Wolves ✓
1	Cowboys have them	
2	Professor on rollers	
3	Males meadow	
4	Dirty Water	
5	Males together	
6	Push weight	
7	Steel city day	
8	Always one hundred	
9	Famous for their buns	
10	Cash service	
11	A prison clock	
12	Famous football brothers	
13	Lock the door	
14	Fill the harbour	
15	Ask about ill patient	
16	Brick cotton factory	
17	Car outside Spanish house	

ANSWERS WILL BE IN THE NEXT EDITION, AND ANOTHER 16 QUESTIONS.



And on the subject of chairmen:
Hat's off to Mr Mohammed Al Fayhad, the chairman of Fulham (the man who owns that little corner shop in Knightsbridge). Hearing of York City's desperate plight, he immediately offered the club fifty grand, then for good measure told the club to keep Fulham's share of the gate receipts. A nice touch. Mind you, this is the same man, who a couple of years ago, after a shit display by his team at an away game, refunded the ticket money for the fans who had travelled.
He also laid on free coaches for a re-arranged game after the original fixture had been postponed very late. GIVE THIS GUY HIS PASSPORT!
And talking of refunds:
The FA should compensate the Bolton fans for their fruitless journey to London, after their game at Spurs was called off 50 minutes before kick off, nothing will be done, fans don't count for anything, do they?
Funniest sight:
The face of Ken Master Bates as his Chelsea were getting well and truly stuffed by Spurs in the Worthington Cup. Classic! 'there must be a God!?
And finally:
I have been dragged screaming into the technology age and have acquired an e-mail address
So anyone with comments, observations or thoughts (Jesus this could be interesting e-mail me on. ww.gord bcfc @ hotmail.com. Look forward to hearing from you.....I think.
Keep Right On Gordon Middleton

BLUES MATCH ACTION v CREWE



Boys should be abandoned. It would only give the forward a rush of passion, and instead of a smack in the mouth, Pursey might find the number 9s tongue down his throat, and then being followed into the shower.
So Darren, do not go touching anyone's private parts in this game, it may have very drastic and possibly painful results.
Youth Team Action.
Went to watch the Youth FA Cup game at St. Andrews against Man United. Although we lost 3-2, it was a good spirited performance by the lads, who battled really well.
Some good young uns for the future, watch out in a couple of years for Goalkeeper Barnes and young Carter who was superb.
Blues though never miss a trick and charged £4 to get in, whether or not you were a season ticket holder? Nowt changes, does it?
Jeff Astle. King of the Baggies
Although an hero at the Hawthorns and not having the same emotions etc as Baggies fans, I and many others like me, can still appreciate the craft, skill and courage of Astle's approach to the game. A typical old fashioned centre forward who went in where it hurt. Although I cursed him on numerous occasions, I wouldn't have been too upset if he had travelled across the city and played for us! Why didn't he? The answer is loyalty and an affection for the fans, and a true understanding of how the fans felt.
In Jeff's day, many clubs had players on their books that showed the same loyalty. We at the Blues had Gil Merrick, Birmingham born, Birmingham City supporter and Blues his only club.
Team manager when in 63 we won the League club, and an England International. A man who remained loyal to the club throughout his career. Sadly they don't make them like Jeff and Gil anymore!
Sad but true, it just doesn't happen in today's game! Today it's all about money, the players only have loyalty to the paymaster who can offer the biggest pay packet. Just like myself, if a boss came to me and offered to double my salary, I'd be off like a shot. Players are no different, the only people who have any loyalty to the club that they love, is the fans. Long gone are the days when the players lived next door to the fans, drank with them, and mixed with them. Today they are a breed apart, aloof and unapproachable. Everytime I see one kiss their badge I smile, for I doubt they could describe that badge.
Its a shame and I feel sorry for the young teenage fan of today who has never known, or saw a true hero of the club that he supports. Their hero of today is more than likely to be another teenager's hero next week. At least, with the current trend, there will be less and less testimonials, unless of course they change the criteria for that, and grant one after two years at a club. They wouldn't do that, would they?
Go On Boro.
Middlesborough v Manure United FA Cup 4th round. Attendance 17,624.
At last, a set of supporters who emphatically stuck two fingers up at a greedy, uncaring board!
The Boro fans voted with their feet and stayed away from this match in their thousands, after the club hiked up the ticket price by £10 to £28. About time too someone made a stand and showed a board that enough is enough, and that they cannot and will not be held to ransom, by being treated like thick ignorant pawns in their chase for a few extra quid.
I'm left with much respect for Boro fans! Chairmen take note!